

Major achievements of Guangdong-Hong Kong Environmental Collaboration in 2016

- * The 2016-2020 Co-operation Agreement between Guangdong and Hong Kong on Environmental Protection was signed by both sides in September to further deepen co-operation on environmental protection and improve regional environmental quality;
- * Implemented measures under the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Regional Air Quality Management Plan to continuously enhance regional air quality. Major measures implemented in Hong Kong included further tightening the power sector's emission caps from 2021 onwards and progressively phasing out pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles, while in Guangdong the major measures included promoting clean energy supply, phasing out polluting industries with low production capacities, launching a study on the policy of volatile organic compounds (VOC) emission charging on key industries, and introducing a subsidy scheme in Shenzhen to encourage ocean-going vessels to switch to low-sulphur fuel or onshore power supply while berthing;
- * The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao PRD Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network showed that the annual concentration levels of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and respirable suspended particulates in the region in 2015 decreased by 72 per cent, 28 per cent and 34 per cent respectively when compared with 2006¹;
- * Revisited the timetable for the mid-term review on the emission reduction targets of air pollutants for 2015 and 2020, with a view to announcing the emission reduction results for 2015 in the first quarter of 2017, and the finalised emission reduction targets for 2020 before mid-2017, so as to provide a robust scientific basis for concluding the emission reduction results of the two places for 2015 and finalising the emission reduction targets for 2020;

¹ Hong Kong and Guangdong set up the PRD Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network in November 2005. The report on monitoring results in 2006 is the first annual report of the regional monitoring network. In September 2014, Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macau enhanced the regional monitoring network and renamed it as Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network.

- * Conducted the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Joint Regional PM_{2.5} Study as planned. The concurrent field sampling in Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macau was completed by the end of 2015 as scheduled. Data and sample analysis is now being carried out and the study is expected to be completed in 2017;
- * Drew up a specific proposal to include the monitoring of VOC in the PRD Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network;
- * Completed the drafting of the Co-operation Proposal between Guangdong and Hong Kong on Air Quality Forecasting to enhance the air pollution forecasting capability of the two sides by strengthening co-operation in five aspects, namely data and information sharing, sharing and comparing forecast results, meetings on anticipated heavy pollution days, staff training and technological exchanges, and co-organising an annual meeting on air pollution forecast technology.
- * Set up the Hong Kong-Guangdong Marine Environmental Management Special Panel under the framework of the Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection to foster cross-boundary co-operation in protecting the marine environment, and tackling marine environmental issues including marine refuse;
- * Jointly prepared a concrete work plan on the Pearl River Estuary Water Quality Management Co-operation Plan according to the recommendations of the joint study on the regional water quality management plan for the Pearl River Estuary in order to enhance the next stage of water quality management co-operation and exchange;
- * Planned and constructed sewage infrastructure projects to protect the water quality of Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay) and Mirs Bay. Completed the second review of the Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay) Water Pollution Control Joint Implementation Programme. The results indicated good progress on the implementation programme with substantive improvement in water quality of Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay). Both sides also put forward recommendations to protect the water environment of Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay);
- * Implemented various forms of environmental monitoring and control and requirements on planning including stringent control of construction projects, increased environmental enforcement efforts and enhancement of environmental

facilities in the Dongjiang River Basin in order to further safeguard the quality of Dongjiang water; and

- * Co-operated and exchanged views on hill fire prevention and fighting, afforestation, conservation and management of protected areas, protection of animal and plant species, wetland conservation and management, prevention and control of plant diseases and insect pests, fisheries resources management, sustainable development of marine resources and conservation of rare and precious species.